



# Memorandum

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL**FROM:** Mayor Chuck Reed**SUBJECT: GREEN VISION 2012 ANNUAL  
REPORT AND 2013 WORK PLAN****DATE:** March 14, 2013

Approved

Date

3/15/13

**RECOMMENDATION**

Support the staff recommendations with the following additions:

1. Direct staff to evaluate "Clean Energy Finance Districts" (SB555) and the City Attorney's office to do the legal analysis and document review to determine what would be necessary to create a CEFD in San José.
2. Explore demonstration opportunities to increase our waste to energy and landfill diversion efforts.
3. Continue efforts with the Santa Clara Valley Water District to increase the use of recycled water.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2007 we passed the Green Vision, 10 long term goals to grow our clean tech economy and achieve our long term sustainability goals. We have made great strides towards our goals especially considering the legislative and regulatory barriers that had to be overcome before we could even get started. Several recent accomplishments have allowed San José to move forward:

**The Demonstration Policy** - With this in place, we were able to install the first Charge Point EV Charging Station which was duplicated by many other cities and eventually led to the Charge Point America program with thousands of stations across 9 states.

**The Solar Challenge** - This initiative challenged commercial solar companies to eliminate up front costs for residential solar installations, which is now the industry standard.

**Adaptive Streetlights** - Working with the private sector, we created new programmable, dimmable streetlight, standards for use, industry specs and rates for new streetlight systems using LED lighting technology.

**Solar RFP** - We have installed 20 solar arrays on city facilities generating 3.5 megawatts of renewable power. We shared the lessons we learned with other cities through Joint Venture Silicon Valley which helped facilitate solar projects around the region.

These and many other efforts have allowed San José to demonstrate that you can achieve results working with partners and resources from outside the city.

For us to achieve some of our goals we will need the support of the larger community and, therefore, we should direct staff to explore Clean Energy Finance Districts. Created out of SB 555 these districts are voluntary and have been used most recently in Sacramento to deliver energy efficiency and renewable energy projects on private buildings.

We have one of the best landfill diversion rates in the country at 73%. Much work has been done to improve these rates on commercial and multi family facilities in recent years. We have also developed cutting edge waste to energy projects to allow us to reuse material that has traditionally gone to the landfill. To reach our zero waste goals we need to continue to explore new ways to reduce material that goes to the landfill. This can be achieved by improving the way we sort the material we collect and by finding new ways to use that material to create energy.

We have seen some progress in the amount of recycled water we are using, up to 10.8 million gallons a day. However, if we are going to reach our 40 million gallons a day goal, we will need to work closely with water suppliers to identify new customers and uses for this water.